

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejected claims 1-14 and 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 101, and allowed claims 15-17. The Examiner also indicated that claims 1-14 and 18-21 are allowable if the claims are amended to overcome the § 112 and § 101 rejections. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter, and for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the phone interview on January 8, 2009.

By this Reply, Applicants have amended claims 1-14, 18, and 21. Claims 1-21 are currently pending, with claims 1, 15, 18, and 21 being independent.

Applicants have amended claims 12-14 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112, second paragraph, rejection of claims 12-14.

In addition, Applicants have amended claims 1-14, 18, and 21 to overcome the § 101 rejection, as suggested by the Examiner. Amended claims 1-14, 18, and 21 are directed to statutory subject matter. Claims 19 and 20 depend from claim 18, and therefore are also directed to statutory subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 101 rejection of claims 1-14 and 18-21.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.


Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this Reply and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


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